



March 10, 2011

Ms. Terry Macaulay
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO FIRST DRAFT DELTA PLAN

Ms. Macaulay,

Please consider the following comments and recommendations:

ENTIRE DOCUMENT

Clarify naming conventions. It is unclear whether the term “Delta” refers to a consistent, defined area throughout the document. For instance, page 1-2 defines the “Delta”, the “Primary zone” and the “Secondary zone”. Line 7 suggests the Delta is home to 600,000 residents, but 2008 Claritas data suggests this is the population solely of the Primary zone. See also pages 1-4 (line 33), 2-2 (line 34+) and 8-1 (line 15).

CHAPTER 1 The Delta Plan

Page 1-4. *The Delta is at Risk*. Include the following bullet below line 16:

- Threaten cultural and recreational resources of statewide significance. (See page 9-4+)

CHAPTER 2 Purpose and Use of the Delta Plan

Page 2-4. *Inclusion and Consideration of Other Plans*. The Delta Recreation Plan should be included in this list.

CHAPTER 5 Manage Water Resources

Discuss potential considerations of water resources management changes on important natural, cultural, recreation and scenic resources in the primary and secondary planning areas. For instance, re-operation of water storage to meet the co-equal goals may have significant implications for management of existing recreational facilities and opportunities, especially at reservoirs and downstream river reaches.

Discuss the benefits of environmental education and interpretation. Interpreting water infrastructure to Californians may assist the State to meet the co-equal goals by increasing public understanding of reliable water supplies while maintaining a productive Delta ecosystem.

Page 5-4 Findings. Include a finding on how environmental education and water infrastructure interpretation can inform Californians about their role in meeting state water conservation goals and help them appreciate the Delta ecosystem. Also include a finding on how outdoor recreational activities contribute to Californian's understanding of, and support for, the wise use of California's resources.

Working Categories of Potential Policies/Recommendations:

Water project recreation facility policies and recommendations in the primary and secondary planning areas, including environmental education, water infrastructure interpretation and funding for recreation enhancements.

CHAPTER 6 Restore Delta Ecosystem

Page 6-5. Include a finding on how viable populations of native resident and migratory fish support recreational fishing.

Working Categories of Potential Strategies/Recommendations: Fund a comprehensive program to identify and prevent the spread of invasive species that threaten the Delta, as well as the rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs in the secondary planning area.

CHAPTER 7 Improve Water Quality

Discuss the implications of water quality on various recreational uses.

CHAPTER 8 Reduce Risks to People, Property, and State Interests in the Delta

Page 8-5. Reduction of Risks to Delta Infrastructure... Include "cultural resources" in this section title. Include a finding that significant cultural resources could be damaged or destroyed by flooding. Historic bridges and ferries; rail lines like California State Parks' Sacramento Southern Railroad; significant buildings like Gakuen Hall; National Historic Landmarks such as the Locke Historic District; and historic water facilities like water towers, agricultural pumps and gates represent California's "cultural infrastructure" deserving of consideration when discussing flood risk.

Working Categories of Potential Strategies/Recommendations. Consider including:

1. Develop specific guidelines for managing and protecting significant cultural resources facing flood threats.

CHAPTER 9 Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resources, and Agricultural Values of the California Delta as an Evolving Place

Page 9-1 line 27-29. Include a "diminished recreational fishery" in the list of risks to the existing Delta. What does "inappropriate recreational use" mean--and does it rise to a level significant enough to "overwhelm the Delta"?

Page 9-3 line 37. Strike the words "come to" from the sentence.

Page 9-4 line 40. Remove the words "water-based" from the title.

Page 9-4. include a finding that government, non-profit and business stakeholder collaboration to promote the unique values of the Delta can increase recreational opportunities.


Page 9-5 line 13. Insert "and heritage corridors," after recreation trails.

Working Categories of Potential Strategies/Recommendations:

1. Identify and secure funding sources to protect, enhance, operate and maintain existing recreation facilities and to acquire, develop, operate and maintain additional recreation opportunities and facilities to meet increasing demand in the region serving the primary planning area.
2. Fund, prepare and maintain a comprehensive inventory of significant cultural resources in the region, and establish preservation strategies and programs.
3. Protect the unique history of the Delta by compiling, preserving and interpreting the stories of the diverse groups and individuals that were drawn to, and contributed to, shaping the Delta.
4. Enhance interpretive programs that describe the Delta's unique values to residents and visitors.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this important document and submit these recommendations. We anticipate submitting additional comments as this process continues. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cheryl Essex at cessex@parks.ca.gov or 916.651.0386.

Best regards,



Dan Ray, Chief
Planning Division

C: Delta Plan review team